

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7526

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3129

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR KU IZ

SUBJ: KUWAIT-IRAQI RELATIONS

REF: A) KUWAIT 2943; B) KUWAIT 3058

1. DURING AUG JW I CALL ON FONMIN SABAH ON EVE HIS DEPARTURE WITH AMIR FOR SAUDI ARABIA, I ASKED HIM RESULTS OF CROWN PRINCE/ PRIMIN JABER'S RECENT VISIT TO IRAQ. SABAH CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS (REF B) THAT NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED.

2. FONMIN SAID IRAQIS NOW WANT TO LEASE BOTH WARBA AND BUBIYAN ISLANDS IN ADDITION TO STRIP OF KUWAITI MAINLAND COAST SOUTH OF UMM QASR. ACCORDING SABAH, KUWAITIS SAID "NO" ON BUBIYAN ISLAND AND "NO" AGAIN TO LATER IRAQI SUGGESTION KUWAITIS AGREE TO LEASE OF NORTHERN PART OF BUBIYAN AT LEAST. SABAH SAID KUWAITIS COUNTERED WITH OFFER LEASE WARBA ISLAND AND THREE
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KILOMETER STRIP OF KUWAITI COAST SOUTH OF UMM QASR IN EXCHANGE

FOR DEMARCATION OF INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER AND KUWAITI LEASE OF EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF IRAQI TERRITORY. TERRITORIAL ASPECT WAS LEFT AT THIS POINT -- UNRESOLVED.

3. SABAH SAID BOTH IRAQIS AND KUWAITIS BECAME PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED DURING LATEST MEETINGS IN BAGHDAD WITH BREADTH AND DEPTH THEIR MUTUAL RELATIONS AND POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATIVE VENTURES. TWO SIDES DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES FOR MAJOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF KUWAITI "DEPRESSIONS" (PRESUMABLY CERTAIN DRY FERTILE AREAS), USING 500 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER PER YEAR FROM SHATT AL-ARAB. ALSO REVIEWED IDEA OF IRAQI OIL PIPELINE AND OUTLET THROUGH DEEP WATERS OFF KUWAIT. GOK TO RECEIVE TRANSIT FEES ALONG LINES TAPLINE ARRANGEMENT.

4. IN ANSWER MY QUESTION RE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IRAQI-KUWAITI RELATIONS AT PRESENT MOMENT AS SEEN BY HIM, FONMIN SAID KUWAITIS FEEL TENSIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES HAVE RELAXED. OUTLOOK NOW IS FOR FRIENDLY ON-GOING EXCHANGES OVER EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

5. SUMMARY OF IRAQI-KUWAITI COMMUNIQUE BY SEPTTEL.

6. COMMENT: IT SEEMS ALL IS SWEETNESS AND LIGHT BETWEEN KUWAIT AND IRAQ -- AT LEAST UNTIL IRAQIS ARE READY USE THEIR NEXT MOVE TO ASSERT THEIR CLAIMS TO MORE ROOM ON THE GULF.
STOLTZFUS

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